



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Immediate Release:
Friday, May 6, 2011

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Florida Legislature Passes Property Insurance Reform

Tallahassee, Fla. – CS/CS/CS/SB 408, legislation aimed to reform Florida’s property insurance market passed both chambers of the Florida Legislature and is now awaiting the governor’s signature.

“This legislation is an important step in addressing the significant problems that Florida’s property insurance market faces,” said Representative Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange), chair of the House Economic Affairs Committee. “I commend my House colleagues, as well as the Senate for passing this legislation that will increase competition and enhance options for consumers in our state’s property insurance market.”

CS/CS/CS/SB 408 increases surplus requirements for insurance companies to help ensure funds are available to pay claims when homeowners experience losses. It also expands choices for consumers in the purchase of replacement coverage for their dwellings or personal property. In addition, the legislation reforms the sinkhole claims process to reduce frivolous claims which drive up costs for homeowners while continuing to make coverage available for those who experience true damage from sinkholes. Finally, the bill makes improvements in the neutral evaluation process for resolution of sinkhole claims which will reduce the time and expense of getting valid claims paid and avoid further litigation.

“Currently, Florida’s property insurance market lacks fundamental competition and consumers have limited choices for insuring their homes,” said Representative John Wood (R-Winter Haven), sponsor of the legislation. “The legislation passed by the House and Senate serves to encourage insurers to come to Florida’s marketplace, thereby increasing competition and ultimately lowering rates for consumers.”

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